



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,028	01/20/2000	Eric Cohen-Solal	US 000015	3849

7590 05/01/2002

Corporate Patent Counsel
U S Philips Corporation
580 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/488,028	Applicant(s) Eric Cohen-Solal et al.
Examiner Tadesse Hailu	Art Unit 2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 20, 2000.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on Jan 20, 2000 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5 20) Other: _____

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the patent application (09/488,028) filed on 01/20/2000.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "24" has been used to designate both "zoom lens" and "swivel base." Correction is required.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 14, and if elsewhere, reference characters "1" and "4" have both been used to designate the same item, "speaker." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zlatsin et al. (6,377,296) and Ratz (5,982,420).**

Art Unit: 2173

Zlatsin et al. ("Zlatsin") relates to the tracking of objects, and more particularly to a system and method for detecting and identifying objects. The system and method utilizes user interface technologies including, automatic handwriting recognition, automatic speech recognition, gesture recognition, semantic processing and interactive dialog processing (col 3, lines 48-53).

Regarding claim 1, as per "sensing a triggering event generated by a human operator" (col 4, lines 42-56); as per "receiving information that characterizes at least one machine-sensible feature of a target, said receiving step occurring substantially simultaneously with said sensing step" (col 4, lines 42-63); while Zlatsin discloses controlling, such as zooming, etc., camera output display, aiming or a direct camera control responsive to results of said sensing and/or said receiving is not explicitly shown. However, controlling camera, that is directing a camera view to a desired direction (via PTZ operation) is well known, such as the one disclosed in Ratz. Ratz discloses an autotracking device designating a target, wherein the autotracking device generates steering signals that are applied to the camera directing circuits to cause the camera to automatically follow the object as the object moves (see Ratz: Abstract). Since both prior art are from the same field of endeavor, thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Ratz's autotracker device with Zlatsin's automatically tracking system, the incorporation enhances to automatically follows the aimed object.

Art Unit: 2173

Regarding claims 2, 3, 5 and 7, Zlatsin and Ratz's camera 152 captures or senses both gesture of a human operator (a hand gesture 146) indicating a target 144 and a direction (extended human finger) (see Zlatsin: col 4, lines 42-56).

Regarding claim 4, Zlatsin and Ratz's system incorporate speech to autotracking a target, wherein the server 160 receives a spoken command, such as "these are my eyeglasses" from a human operator (see Zlatsin: col 4, lines 42-56).

Regarding claim 6, Zlatsin and Ratz's system incorporate both speech and image which are analyzed in locating said target (see Zlatsin: col 4, lines 42-56).

Regarding claim 8, Zlatsin and Ratz further disclose search module 250, wherein the module searches database 230 and retrieves data, which in this example includes the image and location of the eyeglasses and the virtual map of the area within which the eyeglasses are located (see Zlatsin: col 5, lines 4-49).

Regarding claims 9, and 10, Zlatsin and Ratz further disclose that the look-up table (the image and location of an object) in the database is modifiable (col 6, lines 25-38). The look-up table is also modified by receiving information through the Internet (see Zlatsin: col 6, lines 39-57).

Regarding claim 11, Zlatsin and Ratz also provide an object tracking system and method that utilizes search/retrieval technologies for classifying, indexing, archiving various attributes of objects registered with the system, wherein the data representing the attributes can be in the form

Art Unit: 2173

of text, audio, or pictorial images (see Zlatsin: col 3, lines 54-59, col 5, lines 39-col 7, lines 28).

Thus, claim 11 falls under the scope of Ratz teachings.

Regarding claim 12, in addition to claim 1, claim 12 calls for “scanning an area...” “identifying potential targets...” and “storing information...” Zlatsin and Ratz disclose the above limitations (see Zlatsin: col 4, lines 42-56). The remaining limitations are rejected under the same rational given to claim 1.

Regarding claims 13, and 14, Zlatsin and Ratz’s system incorporate both speech and gesture inputs, to locate and characterizing a target (see Zlatsin: col 4, lines 42-56). The remaining limitations are rejected under the same rational given to claim 1.

Regarding claims 15, Zlatsin and Ratz disclose orienting a camera (see Ratz: Abstract).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Tadesse Hailu*, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 8:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner’s supervisor, *John Cabeca*, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173